

Oversight Committee Meeting #2

Date: 1/10/25 Time: 10:30 AM CT

AACOG Plaza Building, Alamo Regional Transit Meeting Room, 8200 Perrin Beitel, 78218 and WebEx

Attendees

- Hannah Santiago, CS
- Linda Vela, CS
- Gui Leao, CS
- Seema Singh, CS
- Sonia Jiménez, AAMPO
- Sandeep Datla, AAMPO
- Clayton Elkins, AAMPO
- Wendy Dodson, AAMPO
- Isaac Levy, City of San Antonio Transportation Dept
- Carly Farmer, City of New Braunfels
- Kale Driemeier, TxDOT Freight Planning
- Lyle Hufstetler, AACOG
- Joel Hicks, City of Cibolo, Guadalupe County
- Nicholas Wingerter, Truck Safety 1
- Amanda Patino, TxDOT
- John Tiemann, VIA

Agenda/Introductions

- Attendees introduced themselves and shared the trends they are most interested in learning more about, which included:
 - Freight Technology
 - Implications of eCommerce and impacts on the transportation network
 - Movement of freight related to trucking
 - Travel patterns of freight movement
 - Electric vehicles and the changes required for maintenance
 - Drones interview with navigable airspace and its safety and security implications.



- Alignment of airport capital program with other freight modes
- Distracted driving
- Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs)
- Safety
- Maintenance of roadways
- Driverless vehicles and autonomous freight movement
- Freight hubs
- System reliability
- Intelligent rail and advanced communications
- Truck platooning

Freight Study Goals & Outcomes

Hannah Santiago shared the outcomes from Oversight Committee Meeting #1, including the desired outcomes. She also walked through the schedule and reminded committee members of the current stage of the project.

Engagement Approach

Linda Vela walked through the engagement approach and upcoming steps prior to the Freight Industry Forum on March 27th. These will include outreach to several stakeholder groups, including an opt-in email and social media graphics. She reviewed the stakeholders included in the team's database, as well as those that the team still needs contacts for. She asked the oversight committee if they have any potential contacts for these stakeholders.

- Nick invited AAMPO to present at the Texas Trucking Association lunch. He also would put us in touch with the San Antonio Transportation Association to have a presentation.
- Joel mentioned he has a Union Pacific contact person to involve. They also have another UPRR contact, Rachel Espinoza who may want to get involved. Nick mentioned that Buck Russell is a key safety representative for UPRR.
- Joel offered to reach out to Tyson Poultry.
- Nick volunteered to reach out to the freight brokers but warned that they tend to be very busy people.
- Ryan offered to connect us with a UPS contact from his network.
- The team needs to reach out to JBSA for military freight concerns and priorities



Project Prioritization/ Mid- & Long-Term Strategies

Gui reviewed the needs or areas covered in the Study Area Summary report for the freight study. He also summarized the various statewide and regional plans reviewed in the Review of Plans section, as well as some key takeaways.

Gui then showed the committee two maps that included the TxDOT UTP and AAMPO MTP projects by project type and letting date. Hannah asked the group about the most pressing freight-related issues in the region, which included:

- Congestion issues, which impacts delivery times and costs
- Impact of heavier electric freight vehicles on pavement conditions
- Air Quality and Emissions related concerns:
 - Explore decarbonization through electrification and alternative fuels, like hydrogen fuel cell technology
 - Consider projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions
- Intermodal connectivity issues: Consider leveraging connected autonomous vehicles to improve infrastructure utilization and transit responsiveness
- Truck parking, especially for owner/operators living in San Antonio
 - Importance of incident management and communication technologies
 - Amanda shared that the TxDOT district is looking for ways to incorporate safe parking within their ongoing capital projects, where possible
- Reliability and efficiency issues:
 - Consistently track performance measures and targets to ensure projects are effective in improving roadway reliability
 - Take proactive measures to address potential bottlenecks
- Construction-related incidents
- Sonia shared AAMPO initiatives that may help study a few of the concerns:
 - ITS TSMO Study
 - Pilot study – Comal County RR Crossing Study, a pilot for a potential regional study
 - UPWP is in the process of getting updated and Sonia welcomed the committee to share ideas for future study to be considered
- At Grade Railroad Crossings
 - Major barriers, including g along 78, from Loop 1604 to 46, no opportunity for crossing which is an issue for residents but also first responders
- Freight Intermodal Connectivity



- SAT has a small share of the total imports and exports of international goods, compared to the total across Texas.
- A better balance of exports and imports is a goal of SAT International Airport
- Wetmore Road lacks right of way (ROW), with its close proximity to UPRR, and is heavily used roadway corridor by air cargo providers. The roadway has lighting issues and has a lot of potential community conflicts with freight, with existing schools zones and potential future share use projects envisioned in the community.
 - Freight and the SAT International Airport need a seat at the table for improvements considered along Wetmore Road

Hannah then asked the group about specific geographic areas of concern that do not have a UTP/MTP project addressing them, which included:

- Truck travel conflicts in downtown areas of New Braunfels
- Trucking parking and safety concerns along I -35 at Solms Road
- SH 46 is an issue, which TxDOT will hopefully address
- Gardenridge FM 2252 has quarry operations spilling gravel and school zones. AAMPO providing data and facilitating a meeting to talk to stakeholders about potential solutions
- John T. mentioned that he can send the team a list of areas where articulated buses have issues and need to be rerouted.

Hannah then asked the group to list three of the most important factors to be considered when prioritizing projects that support freight, which included:

- Congestion
- Pavement Condition
- Truck-involved crash rate
- Electrification
- Air Quality
- Integration of CAVs & Vehicle to Everything (V2E)
- Roadway Improvements
- On-Demand Transit Services
- Intermodal Transportation Improvements
- Connectivity
- Safety & Mobility
- Efficiency & Reliability
- Implementation (Short & Long Term)
- Regional Performance Metrics



Freight EV Charging Infrastructure

Sonia shared that the state of Texas is formulating an EV Plan, with EV charging locations, and AAMPO would like to suggest corridors for evaluation for installing freight heavy duty EV charging points.

Michael Chamberlain is leading this effort at the state level in Texas. Currently, there are no publicly located heavy duty EV charging stations, but there are over 100 heavy duty EV vehicles registered in the state of Texas. As EVs start penetrating the market more and more, AAMPO should start thinking about EV charging infrastructure.

She then invited the attendees to provide their input on potential corridors (at the meeting or via email afterwards). AAMPO will need to send our priority locations for regular EV charging stations to TxDOT by May.

The stakeholders could also use the crowd sourcing application to suggest potential locations for EV chargers. While it is mostly geared towards the public, freight specific chargers should be highlighted by adding a note.

The following suggestions for heavy duty freight charger locations were made by the attendees:

- Loop 1604 and I-10 (on the northeast side)
- At dedicated truck parking locations (such as, major truck stops at Loop 410 and I-10)
- At truck stop near New Braunfels
- I-37 and Loop 1604 (on the south side)

A need to coordinate with utilities like CPS Energy on electrical infrastructure needs was also highlighted.

Next Steps

Hannah Santiago shared the next steps in the project, She noted that the project team will now focus more on developing the long-range policies and program, which will involve continued stakeholder engagement.

A Regional Freight Industry Forum will be held on March 27th, 10am to noon CT. Location will be confirmed later. Results and takeaways from the forum will be shared with the group in April.

